Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

subject application:

1. (original) A communications terminal connected to at least one of a telephone line and

a local area network, comprising:

a first memory which stores service information including availability information

representing availability of a specific communications service provided by a service provider

through said at least one of the telephone line and the local area network and condition

information suitable for said specific communications service;

a second memory which stores message information indicating that said specific

communications service is not usable;

a detector configured to detect whether said service information stored in said first

memory is appropriate each time said communications terminal starts a call connection operation

to use said specific communications service based on said condition information; and

an indicating mechanism configured to read said first memory and to indicate said

message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable when said

detector detects that said service information stored in said first memory is inappropriate.

2. (original) A facsimile apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a third

memory which stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which

said specific communications service is not usable, wherein said indicating mechanism is further

configured to read said third memory and to indicate said guidance information upon a

predetermined input for starting a guidance indication operation after said indicating mechanism

indicates said message information indicating that said specific communications service is not

usable.

3. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a

third memory which stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to

which said specific communications service is not usable, wherein said indicating mechanism is

further configured to read said third memory and to indicate said guidance information when a

predetermined time has elapsed after said indicating mechanism indicates said message

information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

4. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 1, wherein said second

memory further stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which

said specific communications service is not usable and said indicating mechanism indicates said

message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable and said

guidance information when said detector detects that said service information stored in said first

memory is inappropriate.

5. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said indicating

mechanism indicates said message information and said guidance information with a display.

6. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said indicating

mechanism sends said message information and said guidance information to a sound mechanism

to output said message information and said guidance information as a voice message.

7. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said indicating mechanism sends said message information and said guidance information to a printing apparatus to output said message information and said guidance information on a recording sheet.

8. (original) A communications terminal connected to at least one of a telephone line and a local area network, comprising:

first memory means for storing service information including availability information representing availability of a specific communications service provided by a service provider through said at least one of the telephone line and the local area network and condition information suitable for said specific communications service;

second memory means for storing message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable;

detecting means for detecting whether said service information stored in said first memory means is appropriate each time when said communications terminal starts a call connection operation to use said specific communications service based on said condition information; and

indicating means for reading said first memory means and indicating said message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable when said detecting means detects that said service information stored in said first memory means is inappropriate.

9. (original) A facsimile apparatus as defined in Claim 8, further comprising third memory means for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable, wherein said indicating means further reads said third memory means and indicates said guidance information upon a predetermined input for starting a guidance indication operation after said indicating means indicates said message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

10. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 8, further comprising third memory means for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable, wherein said indicating means further reads said third memory means and indicates said guidance information when a predetermined time has elapsed after said indicating mechanism indicates said message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

11. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 8, wherein said second memory means further stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable and said indicating means indicates said message information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable and said guidance information when said detecting means detects that said service information stored in said first memory means is inappropriate.

12. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein said indicating means indicates said message information and said guidance information with a

display.

13. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein said

indicating means sends said message information and said guidance information to a sound

mechanism to output said message information and said guidance information as a voice

message.

14. (original) A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein said

indicating means sends said message information and said guidance information to a printing

apparatus to output said message information and said guidance information on a recording sheet.

15. (original) A method of using a specific communications service provided by a

service provider, comprising the steps of:

providing service information including availability information representing availability

of said specific communications service on a communications terminal connected to at least one

of a telephone line and a local area network and condition information suitable for said specific

communications service;

a first storing step of storing message information indicating that said specific

communications service is not usable;

detecting whether said service information provided in said providing step is appropriate

each time a call connection operation is started on said communications terminal to use said

specific communications service based on said condition information;

reading said service information; and

indicating that said specific communications service is not usable when said detecting

step detects that said service information provided in said providing step is inappropriate.

16. (original) A method as defined in Claim 15, further comprising a second storing step

for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific

communications service is not usable, wherein said reading step reads said guidance information

and said indicating step indicates said guidance information upon a predetermined input for

starting a guidance indication operation after said indicating step indicates said message

information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

17. (original) A method as defined in Claim 15, further comprising a second storing step

for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific

communications service is not usable, wherein said reading step reads said guidance information

and said indicating step indicates said guidance information when a predetermined time has

elapsed after said indicating step indicates said message information indicating that said specific

communications service is not usable.

18. (original) A method as defined in Claim 15, wherein said first storing step further

stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific

communications service is not usable and said indicating step indicates said message information

indicating that said specific communications service is not usable and said guidance information

when said detecting step detects that said service information provided in said providing step is

inappropriate.

19. (original) A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step indicates said message information and said guidance information with a display.

20. (original) A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step sends said message information and said guidance information to a sound mechanism to output said message information and said guidance information as a voice message.

21. (original) A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step sends said message information and said guidance information to a printing apparatus to output said message information and said guidance information on a recording sheet.

22. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing computer instructions for performing the ~~steps recited in~~ method of any one of Claims 15 - 21.

23. (currently amended) A communications terminal used with a communication service provided by service providers, comprising:

information storage for 1) service information including availability information indicative of availability of one or more communication services provided by one or more service providers; 2) condition information suitable for the respective communication services, and 3) message information indicative ~~or~~ of whether the respective one or more communication services are usable;

detection facilities communicating with said information storage in relation to an

initiation of a call connection operation seeking to use a selected communication service to

detect if the selected communication service is suitable in relation to condition information

stored in said information storage; and

an indicating facility communicating with said information storage in relation to a

detection by the detection facility that the selected communication service is not suitable to

provide an indication thereof.